

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1987-8

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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 133rd Annual Report 1987-88

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, which took place on 24 November 1988, eleven General Meetings of the Society were held at which the following papers were read:

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- 8 October *Leicester in the 1880s and the 1980s.* Richard Gill, Esq.
- 22 October *Village, Temple and Fortress: Crickley Hill through 3000 years.* Dr Philip Dixon, Department of Classical and Archaeological Studies, University of Nottingham.
- 12 November *The Survival of the Aristocracy: How did they do it?* Dr J.V. Beckett, Department of History, University of Nottingham.
- 10 December *The Wharram Research Project: The excavation and research of a deserted medieval village in the Yorkshire Wolds.* John Harts, Assistant Chief Inspector (rtd). English Heritage, Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England.

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- 14 January *The case of the obstinate vicar: a trail through the law-courts of medieval England.* Dr A.K.B. Evans.
- 28 January *The Lost Gardens of Leicestershire.* Fred Hartley, Assistant Archaeological Survey Officer, Leicestershire Museums.
- 11 February *The Presentation of English Heritage Monuments to the Public.* Anthony Emery, English Heritage.
- 25 February *Who was Who in Victorian Leicester?* Ron Greenall, Deputy Director, Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester.
- 10 March *Golitho: The development of an early medieval manor in Lincolnshire, c.850 to 1150.* Guy Beresford, Freelance Archaeologist.
- 24 March *Leicester elections and electioneering, 1660-1720.* David Wykes, Joint Hon. Lecture Secretary.
- 14 April *Retrospect and Prospect.* Leicestershire Archaeological Unit.

President

The President of the Society, Sir Andrew Martin, took the chair at the Annual General Meeting. This offered the Society the first opportunity, in its corporate capacity, to congratulate him on the knighthood announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours. This news was greeted with real pleasure among us. Members are well aware that the spirit of service and scrupulous performance of official duties which have marked Sir Andrew's public life have equally distinguished his long and happy relationship with this Society.

Meetings

As the list on the previous page demonstrates our lecture secretaries have again attempted to satisfy a wide variety of interests. They are not entirely happy about the level of attendance at meetings. It should be added that besides their efforts in helping to arrange the lecture programme Miss Mellor and Mr Pearce have enhanced the attractiveness of these meetings by providing coffee after the lectures.

Alan North Memorial Lecture

This lecture in memory of our respected member Alan North is to be given on 9 March 1989. This is welcome news in itself; more welcome still is the intelligence that the Alan North Lecture is to become an annual and distinguished contribution to our programme. This has been made possible by the handsome sum of £1,000 given by Mrs North to a Trust Fund set up by her specially to finance this annual event. The Society is most grateful to Mrs North for this and other generous gifts; and we are glad to have been enabled to remember Alan North in this fitting way.

Committee

The introduction of the new rule 16 requiring a certain minimum attendance at Committee meetings has led to resignations being offered by members who, after consulting their diaries and their consciences, concluded that they would be unable to meet the new requirement. These resignations, offered by Mr G.A. Chinnery, Mr R.G. Dowse, Mr R.J.B. Keene, Mr P. Liddle and Mr L.A.B. Lowe, have been accepted with regret.

Two new members have been elected to the Committee: Dr A.K. Evans and Dr M. Palmer.

Transactions

With his customary efficiency, demonstrated over so many years as Hon. Editor, Dr. Williams managed to have Vol.LXI ready for members at last year's Annual General Meeting. This year the pursuit of economies has led to the engagement of different and distant printers not accustomed to our needs. As a result Vol.LXII is not yet ready for distribution.

Newsletter

This continues to provide a valuable channel of communication with members and we remain grateful to Mrs K. Gowland for its successful production.

Library

As the Hon. Librarian keeps the *Newsletter* informed about accessions and other matters all that is required here is to remind members of a number of gifts made to the library by Mr. Pollock and from the estates of Mrs Mollie Rippin and Mr. Alan North. We are grateful for this generosity.

We also express our thanks to Miss Sheldon and Miss Higson: they have found themselves obliged, regrettably, to give up their labours as assistants in the Library after many years of voluntary service without which it would have been difficult at times to keep the Library open.

We might also reflect on our good fortune in enjoying the services as our Hon. Librarian of a professional in this field who brings to this work the expertise and commitment of his profession.

Historic Buildings Panel

During the year the Panel considered 570 planning applications, relating to both listed buildings and conservation areas. The demands made on the five members of the Panel have been considerable and they are grateful to two former members, Revd. John Hughes and Mr E.D. Smith, who have helped with visits and reports. Among major buildings which have required special Panel visits mention should be made of Baggrave Hall, now under new ownership with an ambitious programme of refurbishment, and Bosworth Hall, in process of transformation from hospital to hotel.

Outside Activities

The Society was represented at three events: the History Fair at Nottingham; the Day of Leicestershire Archaeology at Vaughan College; and the Shires Excavation in Leicester. The display panels, recently given by an anonymous donor, proved their value on these occasions, especially in combination with the highly professional display mounted on them by Mr Terry Pearce. Committee members who manned the stalls were relieved to find that they need no longer feel poor relations in the family of history societies.

Excursions

No programme of excursions has been arranged for the coming season. However, Dr. Evans has undertaken to organise and conduct an expedition to York, details of which have been published in *Newsletter 37*.

Membership

Ordinary Members	296
Libraries and Institutions	93
Associate Members and Students	38
Honorary and Life Members	<u>1</u>
Total	428

We record with regret the death of Miss Mollie Rippin. Members are referred to the worthy obituary that Mrs Dickson contributed to the spring number of the *Newsletter*; but it is appropriate here to remind them that Miss Rippin served on the Committee for some 20 years and that for a number of those years she also acted as the Society's Secretary.